

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 07/26/2004

To: San Francisco

From: San Francisco

Squad 14G-Cybersquad, San Jose Resident Agency

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED] AA

Drafted By: [REDACTED] wl 22

Case ID #: 288A-SF-~~NEW~~ 136551-01 (Pending)

Title: UNSUB(S),  
AKA MYDOOM VIRUS;  
GOOGLE - VICTIM;  
YAHOO - VICTIM;  
LYCOS - VICTIM;  
COMPUTER INTRUSIONS-CRIMINAL MATTERS

Synopsis: Request to open a new 288A case at San Francisco based on reports that users of popular internet search engines were unable to access major search engine websites or experienced slowness due to the MyDoom virus, which flooded major search engines with automated searches.

Enclosure(s): CNN.com website article (<http://www.cnn.com>) on the release and impact of the MyDoom virus, dated 07/26/2004.

Details: On 07/26/2004, CNN.com (<http://www.cnn.com>) reported that internet search engines, such as Google (<http://www.google.com>), Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>), and Lycos (<http://www.lycos.com>) were unable to provide search results to a number of web surfers probably due to a new variant of the MyDoom virus. The problem began at approximately 11:30AM Eastern Time.

The virus uses search engines on infected computers to look for more e-mail addresses in order to keep replicating itself.

It is recommended that this matter be opened and assigned to SA [REDACTED]

♦♦

O+A as 288A-SF-NEW  
to SA [REDACTED]

Opened & Assigned  
to SA [REDACTED]

MA 7/26/04

07/26/04  
CF

S-208LMMJ.ec  
288A-SF-136551-01

- o <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.mydoom.m@mm.html>
- o [http://www.f-secure.com/v-descs/mydoom m.shtml](http://www.f-secure.com/v-descs/mydoom_m.shtml)

**5. Attachments:**

None.



## TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

## TOP STORIES

CNN.COM HOME PAGE

[Google: MyDoom virus caused problems](#)



[Dems stress unity in Boston](#)



- [Video coach prepares athletes for Athens](#)
- [Bloggers get convention credentials](#)
- ['Bin Laden suicide' virus hits Web](#)

- [CNN/Money: Big money behind conventions](#)
- [GOP: Kerry undergoing 'extreme makeover'](#)
- [Google blames MyDoom virus](#)

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SEARCH


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CNN.com

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 All external sites will open in a new window.  
CNN.com does not endorse external sites.

 Denotes premium content.

## 1A Envelope

Case ID: 288A-SF-136551-1A

! SF 1 ! ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] LYCOS !

! SF 2 ! ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] GOOGLE LEGAL !  
! ! COUNSEL !

! SF 3 ! ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] MCAFEE !

! SF 4 ! STAS TECHNICAL LEAD ANALYSIS !

! ! HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

-----DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb-----

[illegible][illegible]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	52
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\_\_\_\_\_

(Title) \_\_\_\_\_

(File No.)

[illegible]

1A4

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number

288A-SF-136551

Field Office Acquiring Evidence

SF

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received

3/14/05

From

Cyber-STAS, FBI HQ

(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By

SA

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)  
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes

☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Title:

MyDoom

Reference:

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description:

☐ Original notes re interview of

STAS Technical Lead Analysis of MyDoom Virus

288A-SF-136551-1A(4)

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
/ MAR 25 2005	
FBI - NEW YORK	

**REC'D AT CLOSED FILES**



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: Routine

Date: 07/29/2004

✓ To: Director, FBI

Attn: Computer Investigations Unit, Room 11887  
Computer Investigations and Infrastructure  
Threat Assessment Center  
(CID/NSD)

From: SAC, San Francisco

Approved By: [REDACTED] m

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

Case ID #: 288A-SF- 136551 - 03

Title: Subject: UNSUB(S), A.K.A. MyDoom Virus;  
Victim: Google, Yahoo, Lycros, Altavista  
Type: Computer Intrusion  
Date: 07/26/2004SUBMISSION: ☒ Initial ☐ Supplemental ☐ Closed

CASE OPENED: 07 / 26 / 2004

CASE CLOSED: / /

- ☐ No action due to state/local prosecution (Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ USA declination
- ☐ Referred to Another Federal Agency (Name/Number: \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ Placed in unaddressed work
- ☐ Closed administratively
- ☐ Conviction

COORDINATION: FBI Field Office  
Government Agency  
Private Corporation

San Francisco

## VICTIM

Company name/Government agency: Google, Mt. View, CA; Yahoo, Santa Clara, CA;  
Address/location: Altavista, Palo Alto, CA; Lycos, Waltham, MA

Purpose of System: Internet Search Engines

Highest classification of information stored in system: Unknown

288A-SF- 136551 - 03



To: Director, FBI      From: SAC, San Francisco  
Re: 288A-SF-136551, Date 07/29/2004

**System Data:**

Hardware/configuration (CPU): Unknown  
Operating System: \_\_\_\_\_  
Software: \_\_\_\_\_

**Security Features:**

Security Software Installed: ☐ yes (identify Unknown) ☐ no  
Logon Warning Banner: ☐ yes ☐ no

**INTRUSION INFORMATION**

**Access for intrusion:**      ☒ Internet connection      ☐ dial-up number      ☐ LAN (insider)

If Internet: Internet address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Network name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method:**

Technique(s) used in intrusion: DDOS (list provided)

**Path of intrusion:**

addresses: 1. Distributed 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
country: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
facility: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject:** Unknown

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Education: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alias(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Motive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Known Accomplices: \_\_\_\_\_  
Equipment used:  
Hardware/configuration (CPU): \_\_\_\_\_  
Operating System: \_\_\_\_\_  
Software: \_\_\_\_\_

**Impact:**

Compromise of classified information: ☐ yes ☒ no  
Estimated number of computers affected: Unknown  
Estimated dollar loss to date: Unknown

To: Director, FBI From: SAC, San Francisco  
Re: 288-A-SF-13655 Date 07/29/2004

**Category of Crime:**

**Impairment:**

- ☐ Malicious code inserted
- ☒ Denial of service
- ☐ Destruction of information/software
- ☐ Modification of information/software

**Theft of Information:**

- ☐ Classified information compromised
- ☐ Unclassified information compromised
- ☐ Passwords obtained
- ☐ Computer obtained
- ☐ Telephone services obtained
- ☐ Application software obtained
- ☐ Operating software obtained

**Intrusion:**

- ☐ Unauthorized access
- ☐ Exceeding authorized access

---

**REMARKS**

On 07/26/2004, popular internet search engines were unable to provide search results to a number of web surfers due to a new variant of the MyDoom virus.

The virus uses search engines to look for more e-mail addresses in order to keep replicating itself.

Menu  
Technology(s) Used:

*Top Screen*  
*Protocol Attacks:*

- ☒ IP
- ☒ TCP
- ☐ UDP
- ☐ FTP
- ☐ Telnet
- ☐ TFTP
- ☐ r commands
- ☐ SMTP
- ☐ HTTP
- ☐ gopher
- ☐ X11 window

*Secondary Screen*

- ☐ spoofing attack
- ☐ source routing
- ☐ sequence number attack
- ☐ spoofing attack
- ☐ flooding
- ☐ vulnerable version
- ☐ SITE EXEC
- ☐ overload FTP buffer
- ☐ anonymous FTP
- ☐ highjacking
- ☐ packet sniffing
- ☐ rsh
- ☐ rlogin
- ☐ vulnerable version
- ☐ spoofing
- ☐ embedded postscript attack
- ☐ trojan horse attack
- ☐ syslog attack
- ☐ flooding
- ☐ MIME
- ☐ flooding
- ☐ Telnet to HTTP port

*Top Screen*

☐ DNS

☐ SNMP

☐ FSP

☐ NFS

*Other Attacks:*

☒ Worm

☐ Social engineering

☐ Scavenging and reusing

☐ Masquerading

☐ Scanning

☐ Trojan Horse

☐ Other

*Secondary Screen*

☐ vulnerable version

☐ flooding



## U.S. Department of Justice

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 288A-SF-136551-4

450 Golden Gate Ave.

PO Box 36015

San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 553-7400

July 28, 2004

Attention:

[REDACTED]

Lycos Legal Department

Dear

[REDACTED]

This letter is to document the conversation yesterday, 07/27/2004, regarding our investigation into the impact of the MYDOOM COMPUTER VIRUS on your organization. Parties to the conversation included yourself, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

If you have any further questions, or additional information, please contact Special Agent [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Mark J. Mershon  
Special Agent in Charge

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

By:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Supervisory Special Agent

HP OfficeJet K Series K80xi  
Personal Printer/Fax/Copier/Scanner

Log for  
HT Internet

b6  
b7C

Jul 28 2004 3:42pm

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Last Transaction

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Identification</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Result</u>
Jul 28	3:42pm	Fax Sent		0:22	1	OK

---

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

b6  
b7c

- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 08/16/2004

On August 11, 2004, [ ] Legal Counsel at Google, in Mountain View, California, telephone number 650/623-6048, was interviewed telephonically and advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview. [ ] provided the following information:

GOOGLE is not currently experiencing any affects from the MYDOOM virus that initially struck on July 26, 2004. [ ] advised that representatives from GOOGLE are working on preparing an analysis of the financial loss suffered by GOOGLE due to the MYDOOM virus. [ ] believes it will be approximately \$100,000.

[ ] advised that she has the IP addresses of the first ten hosts that queried the GOOGLE search engine related to the MYDOOM attack and said that she would send the information to me via email. The resulting email is attached to and made a part of this FD-302.

Investigation on 08/11/2004 at Quantico, Virginia (telephonically)

File # 288A-SF-136551-5 Date dictated 08/16/2004

by SA [ ]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb  
-1-

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 07/27/2004

On July 27, 2004, [redacted]  
[redacted] LYCOS in San Francisco, California, telephone number  
(650)428-5000, was interviewed telephonically and advised of the  
identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the  
interview. [redacted] provided the following information:

Between 8:30AM and 9:00AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on  
07/26/2004, the servers at Lycos were impacted by the MYDOOM virus.  
Between 9:00AM and 10:00AM eastern, legitimate web users'  
availability to search results conducted by LYCOS was at 37%. By  
11:00AM eastern, availability was less than 4%.

By 7:30PM eastern, LYCOS had implemented filters on  
searches coming into the servers on certain text strings like  
"mail", "reply", "rcpt", and "contact" that they noted were being  
queried by the virus. By applying these filters, they were able to  
block the searches committed by the virus and allow regular users  
to access the search functions of LYCOS. LYCOS could not simply  
block an Internet Protocol (IP) address or range of IP addresses  
because of the distributed nature of the virus.

[redacted] noted that traffic to the LYCOS website was at  
approximately 50 times normal levels on 07/26/2004 and continues to  
fluctuate between 30 and 50 times normal levels on 07/27/2004, but  
that, due to the filters implemented by LYCOS, their search  
functions are running normally for most users.

Investigation on 07/27/2004 at San Jose, California (telephonically)

File # 288A-SF-136551-6 Date dictated 07/27/2004

by SA [redacted]:wl *mw*  
SA [redacted] *etc*



- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 07/27/2004

On July 27, 2004, [redacted] and [redacted] MCAFEE, telephone number (503)466-4484, were interviewed telephonically and advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview. [redacted] and [redacted] provided the following information:

The 15th variant of the MYDOOM virus was first noticed by MCAFEE on July 26, 2004 at approximately 6:30AM pacific time. The virus affected major search engines while trying to search for additional email addresses to send itself to, as well as several corporate customers whose mail servers were temporarily overwhelmed.

The virus harvests email addresses from a local, infected computer, then searches the domain name of the email addresses through the major internet search engines, in an attempt to locate additional email addresses. While the search engines were flooded with searches, [redacted] and [redacted] believe they were not the primary target.

The virus also installs a backdoor on TCP Port 1034 that future users and/or viruses can exploit. MCAFEE has already seen viruses discovered on July 27, 2004 that exploit this open port, but does not think they were necessarily written by the same author as the MYDOOM virus.

[redacted] and [redacted] noted that there was nothing unique or identifying about the virus executable. They do not have the source code of the virus.

Investigation on 07/27/2004 at San Jose, California (telephonically)

File # 288A-SF-136551 - 7 Date dictated 07/27/2004

by SA [redacted] w1  
SA [redacted] vts

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 12/17/2004

To: San Francisco

From: San Francisco

Squad 14G-Cybersquad, San Jose Resident Agency

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED] *MA*

Drafted By: [REDACTED] *wl 7-2*

Case ID #: 288A-SF-136551-8 (Pending)

Title: UNSUB(S)  
aka MYDOOM VIRUS;  
GOOGLE - VICTIM;  
YAHOO - VICTIM;  
LYCOS - VICTIM;  
COMPUTER INTRUSIONS-CRIMINAL MATTERS

Synopsis: Request to close captioned matter.

Details: At 11:30AM Eastern time on 07/26/2004, internet search engines Google (<http://google.com>), Yahoo (<http://yahoo.com>), and Lycos (<http://lycos.com>) were unable to provide search results to a number of users for several hours due to a variant of the MyDoom virus (Mydoom.m) and Zindos worm.

On 07/28/2004, Special Technologies and Applications Section (STAS) assistance was requested in analyzing the source code of Mydoom.m and Zindos.

On 12/14/2004, STAS advised that the analysis of Mydoom.m and Zindos was complete. Strings and source code of the virus/worm were examined for clues as to the identity of the author, but none were found.

Determination of the original author is therefore deemed impossible and the case is being closed.

◆◆

<b>SF Field Intelligence Group</b>	
Potential Intel Value: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reviewed By: <i>MA</i>	Date: <i>12/17/04</i>
S-Drive Location: _____	

*Close* *4*  
*MA*  
*12/17/04*

Case closed on  
*03/21/05*  
*ST*

[REDACTED] *352 w/ 01.ec*

288A-SF-136551-8

288A-SF-136551 - 09  
WL:wl *mr*

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The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

On December 14, 2004, Special Agent [REDACTED] received from STAS the Technical Lead Report on the Analysis of Mydoom-M/Zindos Worms. The report found no clues as to the identity of the author of either computer worm. The report is attached to and made a part of this document.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 07-06-2009 BY 60322/UC/LRP/PLJ/sdb

[REDACTED] 350w/03.ins 288A-SF-136551-09

**UNCLASSIFIED**



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
CYBERDIVISION  
SPECIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS SECTION  
TECHNICAL ANALYSIS UNIT  
TECHNICAL LEAD REPORT  
**FOR LEAD PURPOSES ONLY**

TO: <input type="text"/>		Date: 11/22/04
DISTRIBUTION TO: XXX		
Submitter's Case Number: 288A-SF-136551		
RE: ANALYSIS OF MYDOOM-M/ZINDOS WORMS		
Title: Anaysis of Mydoom-m/zindos worms		
Electronic Location: \\smb00\cases\ProductReports\2004_Reports\STAS-		
PREPARED BY: <input type="text"/>	PHONE NUMBER: <input type="text"/>	
APPROVED: XXX	PHONE NUMBER: XXX	
STAS CONTROL FILE: 288A-SF-136551	PRIMARY REPORT ID: STAS04-XXX MATS ID: 2004-XXX	

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. NO PART OF THIS REPORT MAY BE DISCLOSED TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE FBI/CYD

**UNCLASSIFIED**

1. Media Type and Quantity: 1 CD w/zip file containing Mydoom-m worm

2. Analysis Requested:

- Assist in analysis of Mydoom-M Virus
- Obtain a copy of zindos worm and analyze

3. Executive Summary:

A copy of the Zindos worm was obtained. Both Zindos and Mydoom-m (provided) were analyzed using IDA Pro (static disassembly of binary). Strings and code were examined for clues as to the identity of the author, but none were found.

4. Details of Analysis:

**Zindos worm**

- A copy of the zindos worm was obtained from a 3ed party source.
- It was loaded into IDA Pro for disassembly and analysis
- Disassembly revealed that zindos goes into a tight loop (every 50ms) trying to connect to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)
- The code was examined looking for identifying information such as names, email addresses, comments or IP addresses that might help identify the author. None were found.

**Mydoom-m worm**

- The worm was run in isolation and network traffic was recorded. Without being able to reach the Internet, the worm performs lookups for the mail server (MX) for the following domains:

13 cvs.tartarus.org: type MX, class inet  
13 gto.net.om: type MX, class inet  
13 kohls.com: type MX, class inet  
14 lebanon-online.com.lb: type MX, class inet  
14 msdirectservices.com: type MX, class inet  
17 petri.co.il: type MX, class inet  
14 target.com: type MX, class inet  
14 tucows.com: type MX, class inet  
13 ultraschallpiloten.com: type MX, class inet

(the number in front is a count of the occurrences during the test run).

[Analyst Comment on above list: It is likely that this is a list of known "open relays" at the time the worm was released. The intent is likely to use them to send the initial round of messages.]

- Mydoom-m was loaded into IDA Pro for disassembly and static analysis. A cursory analysis of the code was consistent with analysis provided by commercial anti-virus vendors and security organizations at

o [http://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/virusencyclo/default5.asp?VName=WORM\\_MYDOOM.M](http://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/virusencyclo/default5.asp?VName=WORM_MYDOOM.M)

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## TECHNOLOGY

### Google says MyDoom virus caused problems

Monday, July 26, 2004 Posted: 4:21 PM EDT (2021 GMT)

(CNN) -- The No. 1 Internet search engine on Monday was unable to provide search results to a number of Web surfers, probably because of a variant of the MyDoom virus.

Users of other popular search engines such as Yahoo and Lycos may also have experienced some sluggish behavior.

Google released a statement to CNN at 3 p.m. ET saying the site "experienced slowness for a short period of time early today because of the MyDoom virus, which flooded major search engines with automated searches.

"A small percentage of our users and networks that have the MyDoom virus have been affected for a longer period of time. At no point was the Google Web site significantly impaired, and service for all users and networks is expected to be restored shortly."

According to several media accounts, the problem began about 11:30 a.m. ET, and by 3 p.m. the site seemed to be running smoothly again.

The SANS Institute and other security firms issued a release shortly after the problem was detected saying a new variant of the MyDoom virus could be to blame. The latest incarnation of the troublesome virus uses search engines on infected computers to look for more e-mail addresses in order to keep replicating itself.

Experts contacted by CNN were unable to determine the exact magnitude of the problem.

Some users across the United States reported no trouble with Google or other search engines.

For other people, although the main Google page was able to load, they reported seeing a "server error" message when trying to conduct a search.

Google also announced details of its initial public offering Monday, with share prices of between \$108 and \$135. Experts consider those figures to be very high, leading some observers to initially speculate that Google was the victim of a vindictive hacker attack.



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